First-Year Student Move-In Day Is August 16

By Jim Kramka, senior director
Housing Facilities Operations and Management

Move-In Day is one of the most exciting days of the year at Vanderbilt. This year is especially noteworthy because it is our first Move-In Day at The Commons for first-year students. To make the process as easy and quick as possible, students are assigned specific move-in times from 7 a.m.–4:30 p.m. that day. Students were notified of their assigned move-in times in the room assignment letter that was mailed around August 1. The move-in date of August 16 is non-negotiable, so please make your travel plans accordingly.

Vanderbilt’s first-year student move-in is highly structured for your convenience. As you arrive on campus, your vehicle will be directed to a staging area where students will receive the keys to their rooms. Vanderbilt Police will escort vehicles from the staging area to a parking lot near your student’s assigned building. The Move Crew—student volunteers identified by their distinctive T-shirts—will be available to help you unload your vehicle. Once all belongings are unloaded, you must relocate your vehicle to a designated long-term parking area (found on your map). Then, you and the Move Crew may move your student’s belongings into the assigned room.

August in Nashville is typically hot and humid and moving is hard work. We recommend that you wear cool, casual clothes and comfortable shoes. We will supply plenty of cool water to keep you refreshed.

We look forward to seeing you and helping your student settle in at Vanderbilt.

Family Weekend is October 3–5

Family Weekend is the perfect time for students, parents, grandparents and siblings to reconnect. We have many fun and exciting events planned including an SEC football matchup between the ‘Dores and Auburn. You’ll also have the opportunity to meet Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos, as well as various deans and faculty. You’ll still have time to stroll across our beautiful campus and soak up the Vanderbilt atmosphere.

Please find a tentative schedule on the Parents & Family Programs Web site at www.vanderbilt.edu/familyweekend and check often for the most up-to-date schedule of events. A comprehensive schedule will be available when you arrive. See you in October!
Global Education Delivers a World of Learning

My semester at the University of Copenhagen via Vanderbilt University was definitely one of the best experiences of my life. Experiencing another culture and how they view the United States was extremely enlightening. Learning in a different academic environment with alternative studying and group project requirements also proved helpful when I moved into the business world.

Vanderbilt encourages all undergraduates to study abroad. The Global Education Office (GEO) is staffed with experts to help your child determine what will fit into their major, how to apply, and if there will be any additional cost. The best place to start is www.vanderbilt.edu/geo where you’ll find information on locations, academic disciplines and languages. The GEO is glad to talk with you and your child, so feel free to contact them with any questions you may have.

I studied international business and lived with a Danish family that was more interested in Nixon’s China initiative than I was. They engaged me in many thought provoking discussions on the subject. To summarize the semester, it was one of the greatest learning experiences of my life, and certainly the most enlightening semester I ever had. Please contact the GEO and see what enlightening experience awaits your child.

--Dixon Witherspoon, BS’81, parent of Jim, Class of 2010

Message from the Chancellor

Dear Friends:

As the summer draws to a close and your students are gearing up to join us on campus, our faculty and staff have been enthusiastically preparing to welcome our Vanderbilt families. With events such as Move-In, the official opening of The Commons, Commodore football and Family Weekend on the horizon, fall semester 2008 will be filled with fun and excitement, and I look forward to sharing these special moments with you.

From the moment your student arrives on campus, the entire Vanderbilt community stands ready to nurture and provide guidance. Please know that our professors and staff are here to answer questions and help in whatever ways that we can. We value and appreciate your participation, communication and input.

I am grateful for the individual and compelling reasons that brought your family to Vanderbilt in order to realize the dreams of your children. My colleagues and I pledge to honor this commitment, and you can rest assured that a world-class educational environment of rigorous academics, bold research initiatives, and service-oriented activities is provided to cultivate and develop each student to his or her highest potential.

As chancellor, I am proud to partner with you in this endeavor and consider it a great privilege to have your children as a part of our Vanderbilt community.

Sincerely,

Nicholas S. Zeppos
Chancellor

Vanderbilt Student Volunteers for Science

Do you know how many Vanderbilt students spend their free time? Mary teaches a 6th grade class about sound. Adam uses dry ice to help 5th graders discover the difference between chemical and physical changes. They are just two of the more than 600 Vanderbilt undergraduates who delivered a Vanderbilt Student Volunteers for Science (VSVS) lesson to over 3000 5th–8th graders in Nashville schools.

The VSVS experience is, in a nutshell, fun for all. One VSVS member said that “the last time I went to my classroom, the students cheered.” The lessons are written to fit the curriculum and to get the students excited about science. Best of all, the Vanderbilt students really enjoy what they are doing. What student (grade school or college) does not enjoy making slime, or eating ice cream made with liquid nitrogen, or playing a tune with boomwhackers? VSVSers are always looking for new experiences. This year they teamed up with some Vanderbilt Spanish and Arabic majors and taught science lessons to immigrant students and parents.

If you would like to know more about this program, please visit http://studentorgs.vanderbilt.edu/vsvs.
Explain the office of Housing and Residential Education.
This office serves all students living in our residence halls. We have 15 professional staff members, four graduate assistants, 150 head residents and resident advisors and over 100 desk workers to assist students. There is a staff member on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week to respond to any emergencies or other situations involving our students. Our main role is building community. We want to help residents get to know each other. We do that primarily through programming. Our RAs have led hundreds of programs campus wide this year. We also serve as resources to help residents find on campus assistance in a variety of areas. Sometimes students have tough times during the year and we help in anyway we can, whether they are ill, having problems in the classroom or are struggling with personal issues. We train our staff to recognize these situations and how to best assist the students. We work closely with academic deans and other campus partners to insure that students make it through difficult times and continue toward their educational goals.

What are some new programs you have incorporated into residential life?
Our students are involved with programming throughout the year in the halls. This year we have placed an emphasis on weekend programs and programs that involve faculty. Kissam and Branscomb halls have led the way with weekend programming. Hundreds of students participated in their programs which included a late night coffee house and concerts.

We are also very proud of our living/learning halls, McGill, McTyeire and Mayfield. Mayfield consists of 16 lodges, each housing 10 students. Students must submit an application along with a living/learning theme to be considered. Last year we had over 50 applications with some great proposals ranging from “Finding the Lost Sudan” to “Reaching Out To the Homeless.” Each lodge works with a faculty advisor.

How can students apply to be a residential advisor and what are their duties?
The residential advisor position is one of the best leadership opportunities on campus. RAs are our “eyes and ears” in the residence halls. They build community through programming and by knowing their residents. The application process begins in late fall with information sessions. Once students apply, there is an interview process that includes group activities and personal interviews. We did a YouTube video this year as part of recruitment. You can see it by going to YouTube and typing in Vanderbilt RA.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities
The following volunteer opportunities are currently available for parents:

- Freshman Mentoring Committee
  Welcome and communicate with the parents of new students in your region
- Host and/or Organize Parent Receptions in Your Region
- Communication Committee
  Develop ideas for more effective communication between the university and families
- On-Campus Events Committee
  Assist with on-campus events, such as Move-In Day and Family Weekend
- Alumni Relations Volunteer Opportunities:
  Help host and/or organize Summer Send Off Parties for new students and their parents or guardians. Invitations also include local alumni, current students and parents.

- Admissions Volunteer Opportunities:
  Help Vanderbilt admissions counselors in your area at college fairs and programs, pass out brochures and materials, and assist prospective students and their families with questions

How to volunteer?
Go to the Parents & Family Programs Web page at www.vanderbilt.edu/families and click on Volunteer Opportunities (left side of screen) and complete the online Participation Form.
On Nov. 4 American citizens will elect the next president of the United States and young voters are engaged in record numbers. In anticipation of this landmark year, the Office of Active Citizenship and Service took 50 Vanderbilt students to Des Moines, Iowa for the “First in the Nation” caucuses on Jan. 3.

While in Iowa, Democratic and Republican students volunteered on a campaign, attended political rallies, and observed the caucuses. Volunteering for a campaign isn’t easy. Most students spent hours making phone calls and some students canvassed neighborhoods in 10-degree weather.

Attending political rallies was an exhilarating experience. Students had their pictures taken with many presidential contenders and learned about the candidates’ ideas and plans for America. This spawned great discussion and furthered everyone’s understanding of the issues.

The highlight volunteer experience was service as campaign captain at a caucus precinct. Students volunteering for Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) drove to rural Iowa and delivered the opening speech to convince Iowans of John McCain’s merits. Student volunteers for former Sen. John Edwards (D-NC) convinced many voters to choose Edwards.

This year, there was no front-runner. It was anyone’s game as former Gov. Huckabee (R-AR) and Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) earned the most votes. The students were inspired and returned to campus and coordinated the first-ever Vanderbilt Caucus for students to elect the nominees themselves. Many students showed up to the event, and after hours of discussion Obama and McCain won their respective nominations.

The most important goal of the Iowa Caucus Road Trip was to engage students and encourage them to become more active citizens. The Office of Active Citizenship and Service hopes students will continue to get informed, get involved, and inspire those around them to do the same.
The rooms of the Commons Center were constructed in a manner that reflects the sun, making the building and the area around it approximately five degrees cooler.

The restrooms feature waterless urinals and high speed hand dryers that actually make your skin flap.

The LED lights in the atrium can be programmed to put on a light show. They can be coordinated with music as well.

When the sun is out, the lights in the building turn off and when it is dark or cloudy, the lights automatically turn on.

All the food waste from the dining hall is turned into mulch.

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions received 16,875 applications, up 30.7 percent from the 12,911 applications they received last year.

Of the admitted students, the average class rank was in the top 3.7 percent of their class; 92 percent of the students admitted were ranked in the top 90 percent. The middle 50 percent of SAT scores for the admitted students was 1380 to 1540 and the middle 50 percent for the ACT was 31 to 34.

Admissions for students of color increased from 27 percent last year to 30 percent this year, and both applications and admissions from students in the northeast, southwest and west coast increased. International applicants were considerably more interested in Vanderbilt as well—up to 739 this year from 444 last year.
Unrestricted Gifts Are of Vital Importance

Unrestricted gifts to Vanderbilt are those not designated for a particular purpose. They are critical to enabling a student’s progression from scholar to real-world problem-solver.

Thanks to the gifts of parents, alumni and friends, each undergraduate school is able to think creatively when helping students to explore their potential. Unrestricted funds can be used immediately by an undergraduate school dean for any purpose including laboratory and classroom equipment, library acquisitions, guest lectureships, special programs and seminars, and much more.

The School of Engineering is able to use unrestricted funds for Senior Design Seminar, which encourages the different areas of engineering to collaborate on problem solving. The College of Arts and Science has used unrestricted dollars to recruit and retain top faculty to Vanderbilt. Annual unrestricted support is a high priority for the Blair School of Music because of the flexibility those funds afford. Peabody has been consistently ranked among the top ranked American colleges of education due to unrestricted support.

For more information on unrestricted giving please contact the Parents and Grandparents Campaign at 615/343-3120 or pag.campaign@vanderbilt.edu.

Student Point of View

By Emma Cofer, Marvin P. Friedman Scholar

I go to Vanderbilt because this is a generous school. I grew up in a single-income family, and I was accepted to Vanderbilt and awarded the Marvin P. Friedman Scholarship, which enabled me to come here. My father died in 2006, and I would have had to leave most schools for financial reasons, but Vanderbilt helped even more, because that’s what Vanderbilt does. I’m so grateful that Vanderbilt has made itself available to me, as it has to so many others like me. We’re active citizens and are ready to make a difference and do exciting things.

I never imagined that I would have such a full and vibrant university experience. I know that whatever or whomever I become upon my graduation in 2009, it will be the kind of person who seeks active citizenship. I know that my voice is valued; I know that I am well-educated, well-prepared, and respected as a community member from the most talented pool of people I’ve ever encountered. And when I do leave Vanderbilt, my only regret will be that I just had four years. I’ve been empowered at Vanderbilt to become the best person, academically and otherwise, possible. I love Vanderbilt because it has given so much back to me. I can’t help but be invested in both its present and its future.

Emma Cofer, a rising senior, is double majoring in creative writing and philosophy. She is the vice president of VUcept, Vanderbilt’s first year orientation program; a founding leader of [Word.], Vanderbilt’s creative writing outreach program; the 2008 editor-in-chief of the Vanderbilt Review; and a board member of Alternative Spring Break.
Ann and John Bookout Honored To Chair Parents Campaign

James Bookout, Class of 2010, has always been a good student. But since coming to Vanderbilt, his parents have seen a transformation of sorts.

“He has this amazing history professor who is really making the class understand World War II by bringing veterans in to discuss it,” John said. “And now James is really excited about learning, and he’s seeing that there are different, more interesting ways to learn and that history isn’t just memorizing names and dates.”

Watching their son flourish made the decision to chair the Parents Campaign an easy one for John and Ann—and since their daughter Katherine is an incoming freshman, they have double the reasons to be involved.

“We were thrilled to be asked,” said Ann. “Vanderbilt is so easy to talk about because the undergraduate program is so outstanding. It’s something we’re both willing to put our time and effort into.”

“This is a brand new chapter at Vanderbilt,” John added, “with a new chancellor and new offerings like The Commons. It’s just a great time for parents to be involved and we’re eager to be close enough to the university to see that next chapter developing. We’re proud to support it.”

Ann hopes that all parents will consider giving to the campaign.

“Even the smallest amounts make a difference,” she said. “I think it’s important that Vanderbilt has a broad support group and I’d love to see 100 percent participation.”

Calling All Parents and Grandparents

Erica Woods is a political science major from Memphis, Tenn. She is a rising senior and has worked at the Call Center since her freshman year. Erica is one of three student supervisors that help run shifts each night. Erica may supervise up to 20 student callers who encourage parents and grandparents to support the university beyond tuition dollars. The Vanderbilt student calling effort resulted in more than $190,000 in gifts last year.
**Key Dates:**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 16</td>
<td>New Student Move-In Day</td>
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<td>August 23</td>
<td>Residence Halls open at 9 a.m. for upperclassmen</td>
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<td>August 25</td>
<td>Fall classes begin</td>
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<td>September 1</td>
<td>Labor Day—classes in session</td>
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<td>October 3–5</td>
<td>Family Weekend</td>
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<td>October 20–21</td>
<td>Fall Break</td>
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<td>October 22–25</td>
<td>Homecoming/Reunion</td>
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<td>November 22–30</td>
<td>Thanksgiving holidays</td>
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<td>December 9</td>
<td>Classes end</td>
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<td>December 10–18</td>
<td>Reading days and examinations</td>
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<td>December 19–January 6</td>
<td>Winter Break</td>
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<td>January 7</td>
<td>Classes begin</td>
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**Key Links:**

- Parents & Family Programs: [www.vanderbilt.edu/families](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/families)
- Parents and Grandparents Campaign: [www.vanderbilt.edu/pagcampaign/](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/pagcampaign/)
- Dean of Students: [www.vanderbilt.edu/deanofstudents/](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/deanofstudents/)
- Student Health: [www.vanderbilt.edu/student_health/](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/student_health/)
- Athletics: [www.vucommodores.com](http://www.vucommodores.com)
- Vanderbilt Visions: [http://commons.vanderbilt.edu/visions/](http://commons.vanderbilt.edu/visions/)
- Greek Life: [www.vanderbilt.edu/greek_life/](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/greek_life/)
- Bookstore: [www.vanderbiltbookstore.com](http://www.vanderbiltbookstore.com)
- SGA Shuttle Service: [http://studentorgs.vanderbilt.edu/vsg](http://studentorgs.vanderbilt.edu/vsg)
- University Calendar: [http://calendar.vanderbilt.edu/](http://calendar.vanderbilt.edu/)